

Atty Dkt No. OPF 41
USSN: 09/916,176
PATENT

RESPONSE

Election of Species:

The Office has required election of a single disclosed species of the claimed invention. In particular, applicants have been directed to select one of the following species for prosecution on the merits: (a) the embodiment depicted in Figure 2b; (b) the embodiment depicted in Figure 3; (c) the embodiment depicted in Figure 4; (d) the embodiment depicted in Figure 5; (e) the embodiment depicted in Figure 6; and (f) the embodiment depicted in Figure 7. In response, applicants hereby elect the species depicted in Figure 3 without traverse. The claims reading on this elected species are claims 1-4, 7, 15, 17-25, 28-30, and 34. Claims 1, 17, 20 and 34 are considered generic. It is to be understood that this election of species is for the purposes of preliminary search only, and that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to the additional species.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as now pending define an invention which complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and which is novel and nonobvious over the art. Accordingly, allowance is believed to be in order and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicants further ask that, should the Examiner note any minor remaining issues that may be resolved with a telephone call, that the Examiner contact the undersigned in the UK at +44 1865 332 600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 22 September 2003

By: 

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